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Letter dated 6 October 2004 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey to you the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 1 to 31 August 2004 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have this report brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

04-53962 (E) 071004

Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on Kosovo Force operations

1. This report covers the period from 1 to 31 August 2004.

2. As of 31 August 2004, the total number of troops in theatre was 17,728, including 3,068 troops from non-NATO countries.

3. There was no change of status of Partner/non-NATO country contributions.

Security

4. The general situation in Kosovo, though apparently calm, remains fragile and tense and is expected to remain so for the foreseeable future.

5. There was a noticeable increase in ethnically motivated violence during the month, although it is assessed that this is largely attributable to seasonal factors. Of 15 incidents reported, four were related to the reopening of the Austerlitz Bridge in Mitrovica, which is a well-known hot spot.

6. The threat against the Kosovo Force (KFOR) remained relatively low throughout the month.

7. A total of 39 incidents related to drugs, weapons and smuggling activity were reported during August 2004. This is 34 per cent fewer than in July. Drugs, smuggling and counterfeit currency related events are decreasing significantly, while the number of illegal weapons finds remains rather consistent.

8. The operational rehearsal for reserve forces in the Balkan joint area of operations, "Determined Commitment 2004", will take place from 11 October to 6 November 2004 in Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The rehearsal is timed to have the maximum impact during the elections in Kosovo on 23 October and in preparation for the NATO-European Union transition in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

9. KFOR continues operations to secure the theatre, to avoid ethnic violence and to protect patrimonial sites. KFOR remains vigilant to deter possible threats directed against international organizations and military bases. The NATO force continues to improve its crowd and riot control capabilities in order to be better prepared to counter a resurgence of violence.

Compliance by the Serbia and Montenegro army and the Ministry of Internal Affairs special police

10. No breaches of the Military Technical Agreement were reported during August 2004.

Kosovo Protection Corps

11. The current membership of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) is 2,978 active members, including 142 from minorities, of whom 32 are Serbs. The Reserve personnel establishment list includes 1,838 members, of whom 17 are from minorities. The results show a low rate of minorities in KPC. A concern is that there are not enough free positions in the Active personnel establishment list for minorities to fill in order for KPC to reach its 10 per cent minority goal.

12. During August 2004, the multinational brigades carried out 46 roll calls. The number of individuals on sick leave or other leave increased owing to the annual leave period and remains at an acceptable level.

13. Owing to the annual leave period, training activities have almost ceased.

Conclusion

14. In the lead-up to the elections, the potential exists for the type of "flashpoints" seen in March 2004. The reinforcement associated with Exercise "Determined Commitment 2004" will represent a valuable increase in the potential of the Commander of KFOR to react to any developing situations during this period.